

25. (currently amended) A method for selecting a reduced-cost nickel-base superalloy, the method comprising the steps of

providing an article of ~~identifying~~ a baseline nickel-base superalloy having a first nominal composition, in weight percent, comprising

a baseline tantalum content of more than about 5 weight percent tantalum, and

a baseline sum consisting of a baseline hafnium content plus a baseline columbium content plus a baseline titanium content plus a baseline tungsten content, in weight percent;

identifying a modified nickel-base superalloy having a second nominal composition, in weight percent, comprising

a modified tantalum content of about 3.1 to about 3.5 weight percent tantalum, and

a modified baseline sum consisting of a modified hafnium content plus a modified columbium content plus a modified titanium content plus a modified tungsten content having a weight percent greater than the baseline sum in an amount equal to or greater than the difference in weight percent between the baseline tantalum content and the modified tantalum content; and

substituting the modified nickel-base superalloy for the baseline nickel-base superalloy.

**CONCLUSION**

This Paper, containing the corrected claims section in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment has been filed within one month of the mailing date of the Office Action and it is believed that no fees are due with the filing of this paper. In the event that Applicants are mistaken in their calculations, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct any fees determined by the Patent Office to be due from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,

MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK LLC  
Attorneys for Applicants  
By:

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/Shawn K. Leppo/

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Shawn K. Leppo  
Reg. No. 50,311  
P.O. Box 1166  
100 Pine Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108  
Direct Dial: (717) 237-5218  
Facsimile: (717) 237-5300